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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Prohibition) :—" (a) The Managing Director of the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service, Limited, was convicted under section 193, Indian Penal Code, by the City First-class Magistrate, Coimbatore, in C.C. No. 3 of 1946 on his file and sentenced to imprisonment till the rising of the court and to a fine of Rs. 500 or, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three months.

" (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (d) This is a matter for consideration by the transport authority which granted the permits with reference to section 60 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

" (e) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (f) The enquiry is still proceeding."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, the details of the offence? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The offence is intentionally falsifying evidence by preparing and sending false trip sheet and by producing it to the Secretary, Road Traffic Board, knowing it to be false."

Representation from the Erode Co-operative House Mortgage Bank, Ltd.

* 75 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation from the Erode Co-operative House Mortgage Bank, Ltd., seeking some facilities to develop house building and what the orders of Government thereon are?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Prohibition) :—" Yes, Sir. The bank applied for the assistance of the Government for the acquisition of sites for construction of houses, the grant of a loan for financing its house construction scheme and facilities for obtaining building materials on a priority basis. A housing committee has been constituted for Erode for selection of sites and a Co-operative House Construction Society is to be registered for the purpose or as part of the general scheme of Government to relieve the existing housing shortage.

The Government considered that the House Construction Society will be able to carry out the house building schemes more urgently and in a larger measure with the financial assistance of the Government and that as the Mortgage Bank proposed to finance this scheme mainly with funds borrowed from State concerns, it would not be possible to provide State loans to the Bank. They have accordingly informed the Bank

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that its first two requests cannot be complied with, and that in regard to procurement of building materials it can apply to the Registrar for assistance."

Alleged refusal to carry Harijan passengers by bus.

* 76 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: With reference to answer to question No. 210 answered on December 20, 1947, will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether the awaited report has been received and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Prohibition):—"The Commissioner, Ootacamund Municipality, traced seven out of the nine signatories to the petition and forwarded to the Government their statements recorded by him together with his report. As the allegations were found to be substantially true a copy of his report together with the statements in original have been sent to the Central Road Traffic Board for taking suitable action against the company. The Board has been asked to report to the Government in due course the action taken. The Central Board's report is awaited."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"When the report has been sent to the Central Road Traffic Board, Sir, how long will it take for it to come to a decision in a matter of this type, especially when the facts are considered to be true?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The report was expected by 1st April 1948, Sir. It has not yet come."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Was it ordered to be sent on 1st April 1948, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The report was asked to be submitted if possible by 1st April 1948. It has not yet come."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government remind the Board, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is the usual Secretariat instruction, Sir, that when a reply is not received within 15 days a reminder ought to be sent."

Manufacture of power alcohol.

* 77 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the quantity of molasses available is in the sugar factories in the Province;

(*b*) whether these molasses are being utilized for preparing power alcohol and other by-products;